

Medical Reserve Corps

Office of the Surgeon General

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services



www.medicalreservecorps.gov

2005 Hurricane Response Efforts

"When you offered to volunteer in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, you demonstrated a terrific willingness to help your fellow Americans during a time of great need. That dedication to service is commendable."

— Vice Admiral Richard H. Carmona,
United States Surgeon General

More than 70,000 individuals nationwide have volunteered to help their fellow Americans as members of the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC). During the 2005 hurricane season, many of these public health, medical, and other volunteers provided health care and support services for the victims and evacuees affected by Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, and Wilma.

An estimated 6,000 MRC volunteers supported the response and recovery efforts in their local communities. In the hardest hit areas and as the storm forced hundreds of thousands of Americans to flee the affected areas, MRC volunteers were ready and able to help when needed, and assisted as evacuees were welcomed into their communities. These volunteers spent countless hours helping people whose lives had been upended by these disastrous events by:

- ★ Establishing medical needs shelters to serve medically fragile and other displaced people
- ★ Staffing and providing medical support in evacuee shelters and clinics
- ★ Filling in for others who were deployed to the disaster-affected regions at local hospitals, clinics, and health departments

- ★ Immunizing responders for the disaster-affected regions prior to their deployment
- ★ Staffing various response hotlines created after the hurricanes hit
- ★ Raising funds for those affected by the hurricanes
- ★ Teaching emergency preparedness to community members
- ★ Recruiting more public health and medical professionals who can be credentialed, trained, and prepared for future disasters that may affect their hometowns or elsewhere

In addition to this local MRC activity, more than 1,500 MRC members were willing to deploy outside their local jurisdiction on optional missions to the disaster-affected areas with their state agencies, the American Red Cross (ARC), and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

A full report providing details of the MRC program's role in the response to the 2005 hurricane season can be found at:

<http://www.medicalreservecorps.gov/Response/Hurricane>

